

*'Samuele, Filippo, Alessandro e Gabriele - The Daedalus XR team (Forlì-Cesena)'*

Daedalus XR implements augmented and virtual reality services, which has also found application in the healthcare sector. **The company proposed to the rehabilitation industry a test environment for faithfully reproducing physiotherapy exercises at patients' homes, through virtual reality and gamification technologies.** "This way elderly people could see, through a viewer, the exercises assigned by professionals and replicate them correctly from home in a protected environment, as if they were at the center with the physiotherapist," explains Lorenzo from the Daedalus XR team.

It is known that human beings by nature are resistant to anything new and innovative, and Daedalus XR has well experienced it: **"The external impact has been resistance from rehabilitation facilities.** Indeed, it is important to train both the end user and the health care side in the use of innovative digital technologies. It is also important that these tools are created in collaboration with specialists to ensure a realistic and effective outcome of both the therapy and the interactive environment in which the patient is immersed". It should be noted that the project served for a validation phase of the start-up and an MVP and is currently suspended.



The application of the tool has several advantages: it stimulates collaboration between startups and healthcare companies; it improves patient engagement and

motivates the patient with respect to performing the exercises at home; it accelerates the patient's healing processes; and it also affects the patient's pain management and ability to better cope with physical discomfort by changing the patient's state of attention, emotion, and concentration on pain by stimulating their brain on audiovisual media.

It is evident that the use of virtual and augmented reality in the healthcare context offers many advantages, but **"it is important"** as Lorenzo explains **"that these technologies are not used as a substitute for traditional medical care, but as a complement to improve the effectiveness of treatments"**.